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NO MORE KOREAS, PLEASE

Secretary of State Dean Rusk is reported to have told a closed session of the SEATO conference in Manila yesterday that the United States may carry the South Viet Nam war somehow to Red North Viet Nam.



SEATO is the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, now 10 years of age and consisting of Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippine Republic, Thailand, and the United States.

The new federation of Malaysia, menaced by Sukarno's near-Red Indonesia, may be asking admittance to SEATO before long—and would be a logical member.

As for Rusk's reported remarks yesterday, they would seem to be another trial balloon sent up by the Johnson Administration to test U.S. public sentiment on the Viet war.

Our belief on that subject is that most Americans favor winning this fight if possible. It seems impossible as long as North Viet Nam remains a privileged sanctuary from which the Reds in the South get great amounts of supplies and weapons.

The U.S. 7th Fleet's planes could do a job of wrecking Red supply depots and staging areas up north. Such operations, with no U.S. ground fighters involved, should be highly injurious to the Reds in South Viet Nam.

Should Red China try to interfere—well, we have hydrogen bombs and can deliver them, and Red China hasn't and can't; and Khrushchev seems most unlikely to risk nuclear destruction of Russia to save North Viet Nam or Red China.

The last thing we believe most Americans want in South Viet Nam is another Korea stalemate.

This answers the main questions implied by these LBJ and Rusk trial balloons?